

## CLAIMS:

1. A builder composition obtainable by bringing
  - a) crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate of the formula  $\text{NaMSi}_x\text{O}_{2x+1} \cdot y\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , where M is sodium or hydrogen, x is a number from 1.9 to 4 and y is a number from 0 to 20,
  - b) water and
  - c) an acidic,  $\text{H}^+$ -releasing component, where the
  - d) molar ratio of the crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate a) to the total amount of the releasable  $\text{H}^+$  of the acid component c) is 4 : 1 to 1 000 : 1 and the
  - e) molar ratio of the water b) to the total amount of the releasable  $\text{H}^+$  of the acidic component c) is 3 : 1 to 1 000 : 1,into contact with one another.
2. The builder composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate a) comprises 0 to 40% by weight of alpha-sodium disilicate, 0 to 40% by weight of beta-sodium disilicate, 40 to 100% by weight of delta-sodium disilicate and 0 to 40% by weight of amorphous fractions.
3. The builder composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate a) comprises 80 to 100% by weight of delta-sodium disilicate.
4. A builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein the crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate a) comprises additional cationic and/or anionic constituents.
5. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein the crystalline sheetlike sodium silicate a) is used as a powder having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 4 000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein the acidic component c) is an inorganic acid, organic acid, acidic salt or a mixture thereof.

7. The builder composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein the acidic component c) is a protonic acid whose anion contains boron, carbon, silicon, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, sulfur, selenium, tellurium, fluorine, chlorine, and/or bromine, a monocarboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a tricarboxylic acid, an oligocarboxylic acid, a polycarboxylic acid, a homo- and/or copolymer based on monomers of acrylic acid, maleic acid, vinylsulfonic acid, vinyl acetate, aspartic acid and/or sugar carboxylic acid, sodium hydrogensulfate and/or sodium hydrogencarbonate.

8. The builder composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the acidic component c) is sulfuric acid, a silicic acid, a sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid, a phosphonic acid, preferably 1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid and aminopolymethylenephosphonic acid, hydrochloric acid, boric acid, carbonic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, ascorbic acid, glutaric acid, gluconic acid, glucolic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, hydroxysuccinic acid, maleic acid, malonic acid, oxalic acid, a polyacrylic acid with a molecular weight of from 200 to 10 000 g/mol, a copolymer based on acrylic acid and maleic acid with a molecular weight of from 2 000 to 70 000 g/mol and/or sodium hydrogensulfate.

9. The builder composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the acidic component c) is sulfuric acid, a silicic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, polyacrylic acid with a molecular weight of from 1 000 to 5 000 g/mol, a copolymer based on monomers of acrylic acid and maleic acid with a molecular weight of from 4 000 to 70 000 g/mol and/or sodium hydrogensulfate.

10. The builder composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the acidic component c) is sulfuric acid.

11. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1, wherein the composition obtained after bringing components a), b) and c) into contact is ground and then optionally fractionated according to size.

12. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein the composition obtained after bringing components a), b) and c) into contact is compacted, then ground and then optionally fractionated according to size.

13. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein, after the components a), b) and c) have been brought into contact and/or after compaction and/or after grinding and/or after fractionation according to size, a heat treatment is carried out.

14. The builder composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein, after the components a), b) and c) have been brought into contact, the mixture is firstly heat-treated, then compacted, then ground and is then optionally fractionated according to size.

15. The builder composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein, after the components a), b) and c) have been brought into contact, the mixture is first compacted, then ground, then optionally fractionated according to size and is then heat-treated.

16. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 12, wherein the compaction is roll compaction.

17. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 12, wherein, during the compaction, up to 10% by weight of compacting auxiliaries, preferably water, water glass, polyethylene glycol, nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, polycarboxylate copolymers, modified and/or unmodified celluloses, bentonites, hectorites and/or saponites, are used.

18. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, which is a powder having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 4 000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

19. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, which is granules having an average particle size of from 200 to 2 000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, which is ground granules having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

21. The builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1, wherein the dissolution residue of a 0.25% strength aqueous solution at 20°C and after stirring for 20 minutes is less than or equal to 50%.

22. A laundry detergent or cleaner comprising at least one builder composition as claimed in at least one of claims 1.

23. A laundry detergent or cleaner as claimed in claim 22, which is a machine dishwashing detergent.

24. The laundry detergent or cleaner as claimed in claim 23, which comprises:

- a) 0.5 to 98% by weight of the builder composition
- b) optionally 0.5 to 80% by weight of cobuilders
- c) optionally 1 to 50% by weight of interface-active substances
- d) optionally 0.5 to 80% by weight of pH regulators
- e) optionally 1 to 70% by weight of bleaches

25. A component of a laundry detergent modular system which comprises 60 to 100% by weight of a builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1.

26. A water softener comprising at least one builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1.
27. The water softener as claimed in claim 26, which comprises
- 0.5 to 99% by weight of the builder composition
  - optionally 0.5 to 80% by weight of cobuilders
  - optionally 0 to 10% by weight of interface-active substances and
  - optionally 0.5 to 80% by weight of pH regulators.
28. A laundry detergent or cleaner, water softener or component of a laundry detergent modular system which comprises at least one builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1 in the form of a compound comprising:
- 70 to 99.5% by weight of the builder composition and
  - 0.5 to 30% by weight of anionic, cationic, nonionic and/or zwitterionic surfactant.
29. A laundry detergent or cleaner, water softener or component of a laundry detergent modular system, which comprises at least one builder composition as claimed in at least one of claim 1 in the form of a compound of comprising
- 50 to 99% by weight of the builder composition, and
  - 0.01 to 10% by weight of dye
30. The composition or component as claimed in at least one of claim 22, which is in tablet form.